

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 06160 021432Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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P 021415Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4044

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: USTJC, BEXP EINV EAID TS

SUBJECT: US-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION: DATES AND LEVEL

1. FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY RECEIVED ME THIS MORNING AT HIS CARTHAGE HOME. I APOLOGIZED TO HIM FOR BEING A FEW MINUTES LATE HAVING BEEN DETAINED AT MINISTRY OF PLAN FOR DISCUSSION ON AGENDA OF US-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS. CHATTY ASKED WHETHER WASHINGTON HAD YET SET A DATE FOR CONVENING. I TOLD HIM NO DATE HAD BEEN FIXED BUT INFORMAL INDICATIONLTP Y TTC ITVT WAS LIKELY TO BE TOWARD END OF OCTOBER 5-20 PERIOD HE HAD EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR.

2. CHATTY SAID HE WAS EMBARRASSED TO TELL ME THAT, AFTER TWO FIXED DATES HAD HAD TO BE CAN-CELED FORVISIT HERE BY IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, HE HAD JUST BEEN OBLIGED TO SURRENDER THREE DAYS: OCTOBER 12, 13 AND 14. IF NECESSARY HE COULD FLY BACK TO WASHINGTON OCTOBER 15, BUT HIS PREFERENCE NOW WOULD BE FOR A DATE BETWEEN OCTOBER 5 AND 12. I TOLD HIM I WAS NOT SURE HOW THIS WOULD FIT INTO WASHINGTON'S CALENDER BUT I WOULD REGISTER HIS CURRENT PREFERENCE AT ONCE.

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PAGE 02 TUNIS 06160 021432Z

3. CHATTY ASKED WHETHER I FELT AN OCTOBER DATE --
ON EVE OF ELECTION -- WAS SUITABLE. I TOLD HIM
I VERY MUCH HOPED WE COULD STICK TO AN OCTOBER DATE,
BECAUSE, WHETHER THERE WAS CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATIONS
OR NOT, IT MIGHT BE WELL INTO 1977 BEFORE NEW DATES
FOR A JOINT COMMISSION COULD BE AGREED UPON. HE
SEEMED SATISFIED.

4. ACTION: IF IT IS POSSIBLE FOR US TO ACCOMMODATE
THIS FRAIL, OVERWORKED BUT VALABLE FRIEND I STRONGLY
RECOMMEND WE GEAR OURSELVES UP FOR A JOINT COMMISSION
MEETING BETWEEN OCTOBER 5 AND 12. HOLDING THE
OPENING SESSION ASLATE AS OCTOBER 11 WOULD BE
SATISFACTORY. IF WE WANT CHATTY PRESENT AND FEEL
OBLIGED TO CHOOSE A LATER OCTOBER DATE, I RECOMMEND
MEETING OCTOBER 18, 19, OR 20.
MULCAHY

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